



Figs. 6 - 8: (6) *Tetramorium hungaricum*, male genitalia in lateral view; (7) *T. caespitum* worker, mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole from above; (8) *T. caespitum* worker, head seen in profile.

longitudinal striae (Fig. 2). Frontal carinae straight and run nearly parallel. In profile between the occiput and the posterior eye level the surface always smooth and shining (Fig. 3). Sometimes the whole head, including the occiput and frons smooth and shining. Mesosoma very similar in shape to that of *T. caespitum*, sculpture much finer with the sides of propodeum often smooth and shining. Propodeal denticles fitted closer to the dorsum of propodeum than to the metapleural lobe seen in profile. Median part of the dorsal surfaces of petiole and postpetiole smooth and shining (Fig. 4). First gaster tergite bears sparse, fragmented microsculpture only.

Gyne: Body length 6.4 mm. Colour dark brown to black. Head: entire head dorsum with dense longitudinal rugae, the sides of head entirely sculptured. Frontal carinae straight and run parallel. Mesosoma very similar in shape to that of *T. caespitum*, its sculpture somewhat finer, mesonotum and scutellum usually smooth and shining, or only with a few longitudinal striae. Katapisternum at least in part smooth and shining (Fig. 5).

Male: Body length 5.5 mm. Colour dark brown to black. Head: frons longitudinally striated, the rest of head with reticulate sculpture. Transverse furrow on

the frons below the central ocellus always missing. Mandibles with 5 teeth on the masticatory border. Mesosoma very similar in shape to that of *T. caespitum*. The scutum smooth and shining, striated only along the parapsidal furrow. Scutellum with a few fine longitudinal striae. Masticatory border of mandibles usually bears 5 teeth. For genitalia see Fig. 6.

Biology and distribution

Tetramorium hungaricum seems to be a xerothermophilous species according to the localities, nests are frequent on dry, south-exposed limestone or dolomitic slopes as well as on sandy grasslands. It nests under stones. Colonies contain usually few to several matured queens, in extreme cases queen number may reach up to a few hundreds. Nest aggregations were observed in the population in Mts. Csiki, Budapest, which suggested the possible existence of supercolonial life style. *Tetramorium hungaricum* occurs syntopically with its related species *T. caespitum* on all the studied Hungarian sites. Nuptial flights take place from May till June.

The distribution of this species is hardly known. According to available data on its distribution this species seems to be a Ponto-Caspian, or Balcanian ele-